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Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Programme 6. Africa: New Agenda for Development

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, *inter alia*, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify paragraphs 6.2, 6.3, 6.5 to 6.8 and 6.10 of programme 6, Africa: New Agenda for Development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/219 of 18 December 1996 and issued in document A/51/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

4. The revisions are submitted pursuant to the request of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, at the first part of its thirty-eighth session.

5. There is no specialized intergovernmental or expert body responsible for reviewing the revisions proposed under this programme.

A. Programme

Paragraph 6.2

Delete the last three sentences of the paragraph.

After the paragraph *add* new paragraphs 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5 to read as follows:

"6.3 The System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development was launched in 1992 and subsequently revised in 1994. In 1997 it was replaced by the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,

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which is aimed at strengthening the United Nations system-wide coordination and collaborative approaches to African development, including through creating synergy among the organizations of the system operating in Africa, including the Bretton Woods institutions. The Special Initiative, designed as a system-wide partnership framework for the mobilization of support for the region, will further incorporate the development priorities as defined by African countries themselves.

"6.4 The Tokyo International Conference on African Development held in 1993 renewed the commitment of the international community to African development and provided an impetus for increased cooperation between Asia and Africa. In its resolution 51/32 on the mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, the General Assembly took note of the outcome of the High-level Seminar on African Development, held in Tokyo on 27 and 28 August 1996, at which it was agreed to hold in October 1998 the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development. That Conference will aim at furthering African development around the key concepts of ownership and global partnership, focusing on areas of cooperation and approaches similar to those outlined in the New Agenda and the Special Initiative. Furthermore, the document entitled 'Relaunching Africa's economic and social development: the Cairo Agenda for Action', which the General Assembly took note of in its resolution 50/160, not only focused on what Africa could do for itself but also reaffirmed the contribution the international community could make to Africa's recovery and development.

"6.5 At the request of the Security Council, the Secretary-General submitted, in April 1998, a report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318), in which he made a wide range of recommendations aimed at responding to situations of conflict and promoting durable peace and sustainable development. In its resolution 1170 (1998), the Security Council stressed, *inter alia*, that the challenges in Africa demanded a comprehensive response and, in that context, expressed the hope that the bodies of the United Nations and concerned organizations, as well as Member States, would consider the report and its recommendations and take action as they deemed appropriate within their respective areas of competence. The review of the report by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session and subsequently by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999 is expected to result in a new drive by the international community for African development and bring about the need for enhanced follow-up actions and monitoring in order to ensure the effective implementation of the recommendations contained in the report."

Paragraph 6.3 *Replace* with new paragraph 6.6 to read as follows:

"6.6 The programme will be under the joint responsibility of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Department of Public Information."

Renumber the subsequent paragraphs accordingly.

B. Subprogrammes

Subprogramme 6.1 *Mobilization of international support and global coordination*

Paragraph 6.5 *Replace* with new paragraph 6.8 to read as follows:

"6.8 The subprogramme, which is implemented by the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, will play a catalytic role aimed at ensuring the full engagement of the United Nations system and the international community in meeting Africa's development needs and promoting a supportive framework for Africa's efforts. The subprogramme will provide support to the Secretary-General in his global advocacy and policy initiatives aimed at promoting African development."

Paragraph 6.6 At the end of subparagraph (b), *add* the words "as well as the action-oriented guidelines to be included in the Agenda for Action expected to be adopted by the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development".

Replace subparagraph (e) with the following:

"(e) To contribute to the coordination of responses of the United Nations system at the policy and operational levels in the context of the implementation of various initiatives and programmes on Africa".

Add a new subparagraph (f) to read as follows:

"(f) To ensure the monitoring of the implementation of various recommendations on Africa of the Secretary-General to the Security Council and assist in the follow-up, monitoring and harmonization of various multilateral, bilateral and regional initiatives on Africa".

Renumber subparagraph (f) as (g).

Subprogramme 6.2 *Monitoring, assessment and follow-up to the implementation of action programmes for African development*

Paragraph 6.7 *Replace* with the following:

"The subprogramme, which is implemented by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), will focus on (a) facilitating the translation of the objectives of the New Agenda into concrete coordinated actions of the United Nations system at the national and regional levels; (b) promoting the necessary partnership for a positive country and international response; and (c) implementing an effective communication and outreach strategy for enhanced information flow and the dissemination of best practices. The subprogramme will also draw from the analytical capabilities of

ECA substantive divisions as well as its subregional development Centres."

Paragraph 6.8

Replace with the following:

"The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To strengthen coordination and harmonization of the contribution of the various United Nations agencies to the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the implementation of the New Agenda through the consolidation of the lead and collaborative agency arrangements, backstopping technical cluster meetings and organizing consultative meetings with United Nations country teams;

(b) To facilitate country implementation of the programme by contributing to the preparation of the national needs assessment, country strategy notes, action plans and the United Nations development assistance frameworks;

(c) To promote Governments' ownership and active leadership in programme formulation and implementation;

(d) To assist Member States in formulating technical assistance programmes and in the mobilization of necessary resources;

(e) To promote the dissemination within the region of information on the implementation of the New Agenda and the Special Initiative;

(f) To monitor, assess, evaluate and report on the implementation of the New Agenda, the Special Initiative and other special programmes for or relevant to African development;

(g) To support the promotion of South-South cooperation."

Subprogramme 6.3 *The campaign for global awareness of the critical economic situation in Africa*

Paragraph 6.10

In subparagraph (a), after the words "the periodical *Africa Recovery*" *add* "and various ad hoc publications, such as briefing papers and press releases,".

Replace the text of subparagraphs (b), (c) and (d) with the following:

"(b) To promote awareness of, and support for, the major international and African initiatives and events that will contribute to Africa's economic progress, with special emphasis on the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, as well as the efforts undertaken by African countries and their development partners to promote economic and social development;

(c) To highlight progress and challenges in the implementation of the Special Initiative;

(d) To promote and strengthen subregional and regional cooperation and economic integration through the dissemination of information on the actions being taken by Africa and the international community to enhance such cooperation and integration."

C. Legislative mandates

Add the following resolutions:

Subprogramme 6.1 *Mobilization of international support and global coordination*

General Assembly resolution

51/32 Mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

Security Council resolution

1170 (1998)

Subprogramme 6.2 *Monitoring, assessment and follow-up to the implementation of action programmes for African development*

General Assembly resolution

51/32 Mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

Subprogramme 6.3 *The campaign for global awareness of the critical economic situation in Africa*

General Assembly resolution

51/32 Mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s